

March 17th, 2015

5:30 PM

The City Council of the City of Inverness met on the above date in Regular Session at 212 W. Main Street with the following members present:

President Hinkle

Vice President Hepfer

Councilwoman Bega

Councilman McBride

Councilman Ryan

Mayor Plaisted

Also present were City Manager DiGiovanni, City Attorney Haag, Asst. City Manager Williams, Community Development Director Malm, Finance Director Chiodo, Event Director Skeelee-Hogan and City Clerk Davis.

The Invocation was given by Councilwoman Hepfer and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by the City Council.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Agenda as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried.

INVERNESS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CRA)

The CRA Board convened for a special meeting with the Inverness City Council to be available for discussion and observation.

City Manager DiGiovanni noted that we have engaged a process which involves the expansion of the existing CRA, and introduced City Legal Counsel, Attorney Mark Lawson. City Manager DiGiovanni stated that it would be beneficial for the two boards to view his recent appearance to the County Commissions on March 10th, 2015 in which the City brought a Resolution for the County's consideration to adopt, and presented to them on the overhead.

Attorney Mark Lawson, addressed the two boards, explaining the statutory process of Inverness CRA expansion of its boundaries, in place since 1990, which was developed and publically vetted a year ago. He provided the definition of blight vs slum condition as described in the State Statute. He noted how the County called into question if they had been properly noticed in this process of the City & CRA from a technical standpoint. Attorney Lawson's advice to the City is to walk through the process again. We have a Finding of Necessity which was publically announced last year, and sent prior to this meeting, by registered mail, to all taxing authorities noting a Public Hearing.

He noted that for the record, based upon the county tax assessor rolls, property values in the proposed Community Redevelopment Area, 2008-2013 which the original finding of necessity is based, they decreased on the aggregate by approx. 6.15%. Based on tax rolls 2009-2014, values in the proposed Redevelopment Area decreased on the aggregate by approximately 3.0%. This demonstrates the aggregate assessed values of real property in

the CRA for ad valorem tax purposes have failed to show any increase over both time periods mentioned.

He spoke to how legislature recognizes that governing bodies sometimes disagree over increment revenues, and there is a process to ask for a joint meeting to discuss it. He commented on the advantages this will bring to the community, and wanted everyone to realize this is not a situation where the Redevelopment Agency or the City will take anybody's property, and recited a Supreme Court Case, which stated "no" property can be taken for economic development". This plan will do what has done with the current downtown area and slowly reinvest and improve existing properties.

He spoke to the process and how the County claims they did not receive proper notice, which was hand delivered on May 16th, 2014. The process was repeated, hand delivered and sent registered mail on February 10th, 2015, to all taxing authorities. That is when the clock started ticking, with the County having 90 days to hold a public hearing and invite the City Council, and if not, the City cannot adopt the Ordinance for 30 days thereafter. Tonight we will be continuing the Public Hearing, as a meeting has not been scheduled by the County. Mr. Oliver has been asked for dates to have the Public Hearing and was asked this afternoon again and will be asked again. He spoke to the Resolution taken to the County Commission meeting last week, and if the County adopts the "agreement to blight" Resolution, the city will slice off the last year of the increment (1 million dollars). This would need to be done by April 15th, and if not, the City and the CRA can accept the increment for the entire 30 year period. The 90 day timeframe ends on May 10th, and thirty days after that you can adopt this ordinance and it will be before the roll process begins for the 2015 tax year. The increment and the base year will date back to the tax roll used most recently (2014), and the hospital will show -0- values. This draw out procedure cannot last past June, can keep extending this Public Hearing, and adopt it then. Tonight we need to adopt the Finding of Necessity Resolution, consider and read the Ordinance and pick some dates to have a governing body meeting.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Councilman McBride motioned to open the planned expansion of the CRA Public Hearing. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. The motion carried.

President Hinkle opened the Public Hearing for the planned expansion of the CRA

Randy Oliver, Citrus County Administrator, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL - stated that he agreed with much of what Attorney Lawson has said, and the purpose is to expand the CRA from 37 acres to 1240 acres, which expands the original area almost 34 times its original size. The City must make a finding of slum and blight for this area. According to the City consultant the County will lose between 8.1 and 19.9 million dollars in ad valorem taxes over the length of the CRA. He noted the assessed value of this area went down 6.15 % over the previous 5 years. However the values increased 2.79% last year, consequently the state should be updated. We recognize that the City has the right to increase the size of the CRA under State Law. Unfortunately we all make mistakes and the County did most recently by not properly extending the time to use impact fees. The result was that the Co had to refund a portion of the park impact fees.

He spoke to the City not complying with Florida Statutes when they tried to expand the CRA last year. These are documented in letters he passed out to Council, which have been mailed to City Manager DiGiovanni and I am providing by copy this evening. These mistakes cannot be corrected by trying to rewrite history by holding another Public Hearing. The City can hold a Public Hearing and expand the CRA, as of the date of adoption and the BOCC has the right to hold a hearing for what is called competing demands in the District. We consider this hearing and the properly expanded CRA as the date of adoption and establishes the base year. He thanked them for the opportunity to place comments on the record.

Samantha Carter, 204 E Vine Street, addressed council stating she was here to dispute the Inverness CRA's inclusion of her neighborhood in its plan on the basis of it being blighted. They think they live in one of the nicest authentic neighborhoods in the county. She spoke of historic properties surrounding her home and the location on Lake Henderson and bordering the City Park.

Harry "Nick Carter, 204 E Vine Street, Inverness, addressed council and noted how this has caused him stress, and will affect his life, as well as his wife and neighbors. He stated the attorney claims this plan is in no way going to take homes away, but on page 38, Section 5.2 it says the CRA is an instrument to provide the power of eminent domain to the City. He would like to strip this language from the plan, as granting eminent domain through this plan as a vehicle is scandalous and needs to be removed.

Chuck Spinella, 115 Sassy Lane, Inverness, thanked the Council and CRA for letting them speak. He agreed with what has been said and some of the language in the plan was only reviewed by him recently. He lives in Dick Mann's Mobile Home Park, and he recently spoke with Community Development Director Malm, and was explained what was trying to be accomplished and understands that the City wants to maintain its originality and charm. The fact they want to do some redevelopment, it's an excellent idea, and that most of the people here are behind the city.

William Carter, Floral City, spoke of one area of the map, where you look from Liberty Park or from the north shore of Wallace Brooks Park across the lake (Oak Trees, Citrus Grove, Cyprus tree and a couple of quaint residents. Wondering what the plan is under the CRA plan, looking at this chronicle from several years back, dreaming big, imagining retail shops, eateries, and newly constructed contemporary apts., surrounding the lakes in Inverness.

Raphial Cobrerro, 819 E Harbor Street, Inverness Highlands, addressed council and noted his office to be in the middle of the Orange Grove, to help rehabilitate dogs. For these people to lose out on what is dear to them is a shame. He feels this will cause taxes to increase and they can't afford or want to relocate. He believes the city can take their homes, and property, as it happened to him in New York, due to eminent domain.

Sandy Swisher, 113 Sassy Lane, Inverness, addressed council and asked questions regarding who the developers were, Grant Funds, Florida Land Trust (FLT), Leeson's Mobile Home Park, environmental studies, Mr. Mann's historical area, and eminent domain.

Kathy Carter, E. Jefferson Street, Floral City, and related to Nick Carter, addressed Council and reference State Statute 163, enacted by a Florida Act, called Community Development Act in 1969, when urban renewal was popular. She stated that this situation is based on an outdated act.

Susan McFearson Glavin, 101 Sassy Lane, in Mr. Mann's Manor, addressed Council and stated that bigger is not always better. We currently have no crime and moved here because of a country setting. You have a nice safe town that draws people and don't change it.

Robert Odle, Inverness, addressed council stating that 10 years prior he purchased a trailer in the park, and how safe it was and how the residents keep up their homes. We love our park and would do anything to hold it.

Council President Hinkle noted that we will keep the Public Hearing open, to be continued.

Councilman Ryan motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Resolution 2015-05 by title only. Seconded by Councilwoman McBride. The motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-05

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT; FINDING THE EXISTENCE OF BLIGHTED AREA CONDITIONS WITHIN THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA; MAKING CERTAIN FINDINGS AND DETERMINATIONS; FINDING A NEED FOR EXPANDING THE EXISTING COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 163, PART III, FLORIDA STATUTES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Councilman Ryan motioned to adopt Resolution 2015-05, by roll call vote. Seconded by Councilwoman Hepfer. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; President Hinkle, yes. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Lawson suggested that the Council have the second reading of the Ordinance and take comment, continuing the hearing (not closing this hearing) to a date certain, with the knowledge that we may convene a meeting again, to as late as June 10th, 2014.

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to have the City Clerk is read Ordinance 2015 -710 by title only. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2015-710

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS RELATING TO COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT; CONFIRMING, RATIFYING, AND SUPPLEMENTALLY ADOPTING A MODIFICATION TO THE INVERNESS COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT PLAN; EXPANDING THE BOUNDARIES OF THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA; EXTENDING THE TIME CERTAIN TO COMPLETE REDEVELOPMENT FINANCED BY TAX INCREMENT REVENUES; PROVIDING DIRECTION AND AUTHORITY CONCERNING REDEVELOPMENT FINANCING AND THE ISSUANCE OF REDEVELOPMENT REVENUE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR AMENDMENT OF PART II, CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE V, SECTION 2-203, REDEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND, OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS CODE OF

ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR RESTATEMENT AND REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; RESERVING RIGHTS; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR LIBERAL INTERPRETATION AND CORRECTION OF ERRORS, IF ANY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Comments:

Attorney Haag explained that the Council adopted the Resolution dealing with the CRA, and this is a second reading of the Ordinance to actually create the CRA. What Attorney Lawson has recommended was to read it by title and open the public hearing, receive comment and continue the hearing, depending on what transponds with the County and the City.

Nick Carter, read from page 38 of the CRA Plan, which says that eminent domain is part of the CRA, which is a delivery vehicle for rights that the City should not have, and needs to be corrected. Our neighborhood is not blighted, and the language in the plan has created a problem.

Unknown speaker stated He would like to accomplishment tonight that the Trailer Park and the Grove be removed from the CRA Plan.

Council President Hinkle stated that the Public Hearing will remain open pending the adoption of the Ordinance at a date and time, to be announced.

Attorney Lawson stated that we should pick a couple dates certain, going forward, and noting the Agreement to Blight Resolution by the County, to occur before the 15th of April. It should be publically announced by the chair that this will be continued to the City Council meeting of April 21st at 5:30 pm – both the open public hearing and the ordinance to continue this hearing.

President Hinkle motioned to continue the Public Hearing open to the 21st of April, 2015 at 5:30pm, and continue the meeting to further the adoption at that time. Councilwoman Hepfer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Attorney Haag spoke to eminent domain as it relates to the CRA, and reflecting on Supreme Court Case, called the City of New London vs Kello. It was ruled that the City of New London could acquire individual personal properties for the purpose of redevelopment, and as a result of that decision, numerous states, to include Florida, have passed laws that you cannot use power of domain for redevelopment purposes. The topic came up that Cities and Counties can acquire property within a CRA, but acquiring doesn't necessarily mean eminent domain. He encouraged that they not worry about Inverness condemning land to give it someone else to develop, as that cannot happen in the State of Florida.

Attorney Lawson noted that as the Public Hearing has been continued, and is an open matter, we would invite the CRA back and reconvene and this does not mean we cannot have the required statutory joint hearing with Citrus County.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

John Murphy, Citrus County Chamber of Commerce, Chair of Government Affairs Committee, spoke to the airport and the talks of a Business Park since 1999, which the

Chamber of Commerce has always been a strong advocate of. He referenced a 2000 Airport Master Plan study and in 2008 was identified as the best thought place to put a Business Park in Citrus County. He spoke to the land swap between the City and the County and how the Chamber wants to see the City and County work together to resolve the issue. The opinion is the Inverness Business Park will be a far reaching, positive effect for the City of Inverness and will create a unique opportunity for economic growth that doesn't currently exist anywhere else in Citrus County. The Chamber is offering to assist anyway they can.

The ICRA board adjourned their meeting at 7:27pm.

Nick Carter spoke again regarding the CRA and removing Gospel Island from the plan. He spoke of the threat of eminent domain in a blighted area.

Don Taylor, Executive Director for the Economic Development Authority for Citrus County spoke to the access road for the Inverness Business Park. He stated this is a priority for the organization, to get this park built to help the City and County create jobs for this area. He referenced the dimensions of the roadway and the infrastructure available. He spoke of the environmental concerns and how the ground has already been disturbed without any issues. Mr. Taylor offered to be a mediator if needed between the City and the County to move this forward. He announced a public hearing on April 9, 2015 for zoning. He referenced grant money from the state that is currently available.

Randy Oliver spoke of February meeting with City Manager DiGiovanni. He referenced a letter he wrote to City Manager and thinks it is something that can be built upon. He spoke of \$12,500 funding committed to the War Memorial Monuments and is waiting for certain approvals. Rosemont/Rolling Greens utility system purchase was approved by the County sometime last year, and ready for public hearing. He spoke to the striping on South Apopka and that it be done in a safe manner. The County is waiting for a letter stamped by a registered professional engineer that it meets the design standards of current highway traffic safety standards, or that section of road could be dedicated to the City. The recycling containers at the Withlacoochee Training Center are being moved within three months. Whispering Pines Park would be considered part of the County budget process but is requesting a copy of the City budget for the park. The AmeriGas site for the trailhead has been agreed and they want access to survey the property with intent to put asphalt on the top to make it waterproof. Mr. Oliver thinks downtown planning is critical. He asked Council to consider the items outlined in the letter.

Council President Hinkle asked Mr. Oliver about the lack of response when the City has requested a breakdown of how city taxes are spent by the County.

Mr. Oliver stated that the Board of County Commissioners only controls 26% of the taxes with 74% of the taxes going to operate the jail, the Sheriff's Department, all of the constitutional offices, courts, etc. He will work on a response for the breakdown.

Mike Bays, 9380 S. Pleasant Grove Rd. and currently the sitting president for the EDC asked that we move forward on the Inverness Airport and the Industrial Park that's been sitting there forever. He spoke of the difference between economic growth and economic development. It is a great opportunity to come together, work together and move forward. Being that the EDC is now independent, not political, looks at what's best for the citizens. A long-term strategic plan to protect the environment first and then how to bring

in and keep jobs and locate businesses together in certain areas would be moving forward for the community.

Council President Hinkle called for a brief five-minute recess @ 7:43pm
Reconvened at 7:51pm.

George Benson, 1624 E. Pacific Ln., Inverness, spoke to the importance of the road extension at the airport to get the business park going. He noted in the 23 years he has resided in Citrus County there has been talk of the business park but nothing has happened. He stated how impressed he is with what is being done in Inverness.

Rebecca Bays, Chamber of Commerce Chair, spoke of how the Florida Chamber has worked very diligently to make Florida a very competitive business environment. Citrus County has also worked as diligently to become a competitive business environment. The chamber is here to support what has been said tonight regarding the airport, and hopes the Legislature will look at enterprise zones and put them back at the local level of government.

Josh Wooten, President of the Chamber of Commerce stated he doesn't think that there is any philosophical reason why this airport road can't be done. He stated he is a huge proponent of Inverness and how this would bring a new dynamic. He asked to work with the economic developers regarding the road and would like to see a commitment from Council to get this done.

Gene Davis, Inverness stated that decisions made through this Council affect us both directly and indirectly. There is an opportunity for a prime airport here that could accommodate corporate traffic. We have prime opportunity to incorporate the business park with this airport, and asked that they just give us that opportunity and put the politics behind.

Celeste Ann Schaub, 7924 S. Heather Point, Floral City spoke to the ordinance on e-cigarettes and there is no comparison between e-cigarettes and combustible cigarette smoking. She spoke of people trying to quit smoking and when other remedies fail some turn to vaping. She spoke of the ingredients of the e- cigarettes compared to those of regular cigarettes. Consider this information when you make decision.

SCHEDULED APPEARANCES

None

MAYOR'S LOCAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

None

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried.

a) Bill Listing*

- Recommendation – Approval

- b) Council Minutes – 03/03/15*
 - Recommendation – Approval
- c) Proclamation – “Water Conservation Month”*
And “National Service Recognition Day”
 - Recommendation – Approval

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

11)a) E-Cigarette Ordinance (First Reading) – City Manager DiGiovanni explained that the rationale for considering a regulatory ordinance governing the use of e-Cigarettes by employees while working was discussed at the January 18th, 2015 Council Meeting, with consensus to proceed with Ordinance for consideration. He noted the attached Ordinance developed by Attorney Haag, along with several articles on the subject of e-Cigarettes. We are not looking at banning this in the community, but on governmental, public areas. City Manager referenced the information provided from the Food and Drug Administration, health clinics, etc. This is simply dealing with behavioral aspects of the workplace and what would or would not be allowed in a building such as this or any other domains of the City of Inverness. If the desire is to proceed, a public hearing and second reading of the ordinance will take place at the April 7th, 2015 meeting of City Council.

City Attorney Haag emphasized that we are only regulating activity within city buildings, and the conduct of city employees and the members of the public visiting public buildings. There is one addition for Council to consider in Section 2 – Activities Prohibited, and recommended that it state “own and/or control”, in case the City leases property in the future.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to have City Clerk Davis read Ordinance 2015 -709 by title only. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015 - 709

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF INVERNESS, FLORIDA, PROHIBITING THE USE OF E-CIGARETTES IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY THE CITY OF INVERNESS; PROVIDING FOR FINDINGS; PROVIDING FOR DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING FOR ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED; PROVIDING FOR ENFORCEMENT; PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES; PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AND, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

Discussion:

Councilman Ryan spoke to being a former smoker and stopped by using this product, and how this ordinance was for the appearance of employees smoking while at work.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated that she also used the e-cigarettes to stop smoking and provided some history of how it came about from a Chinese doctor.

Councilwoman Bega feels we are keeping consistency within the rules regarding city buildings and City properties.

Councilman McBride stated his support for the ordinance and we are very sound having this ordinance regarding city buildings.

Councilwoman Bega motioned to approve Ordinance 2015-709 on the first reading, by title only. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. Roll call vote was as follows: Councilman Ryan, yes; Councilwoman Bega, yes; Councilman McBride, yes; Councilwoman Hepfer, yes; President Hinkle, yes. The motion carried.

11)b) Re-Appointment of Board Members was addressed by City Manager noting this is a continuation from the last meeting, Council is asked to re-appoint the listed members to the stated Boards and /or Commissions:

Zoning Board of Adjustment; David Brooks and Pete Kelly

Planning & Zoning; James Devine

Code Enforcement Board; John Pepe and Harry Kratzer

Councilwoman Hepfer motioned to re-appoint the listed members to the Boards and Commissions as submitted. Seconded by Councilman McBride. The motion carried.

11)c) Valerie Theatre Project – 209 Courthouse Square (verbal) was addressed, with City Manager presenting the monthly report of the project. The marquee is up and has two programmable reader boards. The Plaza is taking shape with brick being laid and is now visual and materializing right before us. The 21' fountain is staked out and will begin construction. He referenced the party wall and is working with Mr. Neal on clarity on what 'to be made whole' represents. We see this to be shortly resolved and come to pass. The interior is shaped to how it will look somewhat when complete. He spoke to the LED lighting throughout the building, and that it has 4-6 weeks to go. An Invitation Only black tie affair is targeted for May 30 and an opening to the public on June 6. He stated that the most important thing that should never be lost on the Valerie Theatre is its one-of-a-kind for Citrus County.

11)d) Citrus County List of Projects/Policy Times – City Manager stated that with reference to the City letters to the County and surrounds the 9 points, the City of Inverness is on record for supporting the business park and how City Council took major steps to eventually invest \$17.5 million dollars creating available infrastructure. The business park is 16 years in discussion and still no adequate zoning, no policies, no plan for land mass for the business park. The business park was conceived by utilizing Watson Road and the County has furthered the advancement of the airport by spending money on hangars and a fixed based operator terminal utilizing Watson Road, so there is access.

Nine points came about to bring the two governments together, to pull it all together and make it easy. There has been discussion by the Commission Chair that there are millions of dollars of pollution on this property. Nothing will happen to expose liability to the City, and nothing can be done until the zoning is in place, there is a plan, etc. We are here to work with EDC and Chamber, but a lot needs to be done on the County's part. City Manager's question to Council was should the nine points remain as a whole or broken apart.

Councilman Ryan spoke to initially getting the County buy in and their support. Thinks the County doesn't want to pay for Whispering Pines Park and feels the need to keep the 9 point agreement in place as a whole.

Councilwoman Bega spoke in favor of the industrial park and all it will bring, but there are obstacles before they get there. Councilwoman spoke to the utilities included in the nine point agreement, and the work that has been done.

Councilwoman Hepfer spoke to a joint meeting and thought we could work together to make everything happen. She referenced infrastructure, zoning, etc.

Councilman McBride questioned if the City was willing to grant access prior to the possible pollution issue. City Manager stated he received an email that the county was going to be on the property doing something, but did not request permission. Councilman McBride questioned if there is anything short of a vote on the part of the County Commission to approve all 9 points and be willing to accept in good faith before moving on. He is in favor of leaving the 9 points intact.

Councilwoman Hepfer referenced the pollution concern and whatever the County did at Floral Park, where years ago was a dump.

Council President Hinkle questioned when that area was a city dump, with City Manager stating maybe mid 60's.

Consensus of Council was to stay with the 9 point agreement as a whole.

City Manager DiGiovanni spoke to the CRA and how time consuming it is along with the Valerie Theatre project, lighting at Cooter Pond boardwalk, CIP budget, etc. The unforeseen is the challenge with the CRA.

11) e) Council Re-Organization was addressed by City Manager DiGiovanni explaining the procedure to elect a President, Vice President, and to appoint members to various committees and boards. He referenced the attached history of previous Presidents, committee appointments, etc. The floor was opened to nominations for President and Vice President of City Council and spoke of the responsibility of payment drafts signatories.

Council President Hinkle nominated **Jacquie Hepfer for President of City Council**. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motioned carried unanimously.

Council President Hepfer nominated **Councilman Dave Ryan for Vice President of City Council**. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried unanimously.

Citrus County Chamber of Commerce Representative: Councilman Ryan accepted to remain as representative.

Citrus County Library Board Representative: Councilwoman Hepfer accepted to remain as representative of the Library Board.

EDC: Has gone private and representative was not needed.

TDC: Councilwoman Bega accepted to remain representative for the TDC.

WRWSA: No action needed – Crystal River Remain Representative

KCCB: Councilman McBride nominated Councilwoman Hepfer as representative. Seconded by Councilman Ryan.

WRPC: Councilman Hinkle remains as representative

MPO: Councilwoman Hepfer nominated Councilman McBride to remain as representative to the MPO. Seconded by Councilman Ryan. The motion carried.

Councilman McBride nominated Councilwoman Hepfer to remain as alternative representative to MPO. Seconded by Councilwoman Bega. The motion carried.

City Manager DiGiovanni additionally reported on the following:

Saturday, March 21st, there will be many events to include Farmers Market @ Liberty Park; The Big Bass Tournament at Liberty Park in Lake Henderson; Clean Air Bike Ride staging @ the Inverness Trail Head on N. Apopka; and the MOPAR Club will have its large car show taking place outside the Government Center. This is an enormous weekend!

COUNCIL/MAYOR SUBJECTS

Councilwoman Bega stated a lot of controversy from residents this evening was due to either lack of communication and misinterpretation, and wonders how to convince them otherwise.

City Manager DiGiovanni stated it is difficult when facts are rejected. When beliefs get to that level it presents a challenge to undo.

Councilman McBride spoke to his recent cruise to the Caribbean. Disappointed in what was heard from people this evening. He stated the Valerie Theatre is beautiful and a big deal and we are on track and focused.

Councilwoman Hepfer stated it was upsetting tonight and questioned at what point did we ever talk about any of that, at a loss when reputable attorneys telling them they were not correct. She stated how wonderful the St. Patrick's Day event was.

Councilman Ryan agreed with the others concerning the attitude towards the CRA from the citizens. He enjoyed the ROCCS ribbon cutting and the St. Patrick's Day parade. People's comments are very complimentary.

Councilman Hinkle thanked all for the opportunity to serve as Council President this last year. He spoke to the Valerie Theatre and what a difference. March 20th is Florida Bicycle Back to Work Day and the month of March is Florida Bicycle Month.

CITIZENS NOT ON AGENDA

Martha Hinkle 403 W. Grace St. Inverness spoke regarding the e-cigarette ordinance and how it is a wise decision.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:03pm

City Clerk

Council President